

Congressman Elijah E. Cummings

September 14, 2001

7th Congressional District of Maryland
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It is both a privilege and honor to represent you in the United States Congress. I will continue outreach efforts to further inform you of legislative action in Congress and its impact. I welcome your advice. Government "by the people" is the cornerstone of my legislative philosophy.

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

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WE MUST STAND FOR JUSTICE IN THE FACE OF OUR SHARED ADVERSITY

CONGRESSMAN CUMMINGS SPEAKS ON AMERICA'S RESPONSE TO TERRORISM

In the wake of Tuesday's vicious and tragic attacks, America's prayers go out to the families of those who were killed or injured. No words can adequately express the heartache we feel.

We stand together as one people in the face of our shared adversity.

I was near our Washington congressional office on Tuesday morning — close enough to feel the percussion of one of the explosions. During the hours that followed, televised images and official briefings began to reveal the full horror of our loss in lives and property.

Life in America will never again be quite the same.

Almost 60 years after Pearl Harbor, Americans alive at that time remember precisely what they were doing when they first learned that we had been attacked. For my generation, the assassinations of John and Robert Kennedy, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X had the same kind of profound and lasting impact.

Those events changed forever how we viewed ourselves, interacted with each other and saw our proper role in the world. The tragedies of September 11, 2001, will have a comparable impact on our future as a people.

Last Tuesday, the terrorists attacked the symbols of America's military and

economic might — the Pentagon and New York City's World Trade Center. In a more fundamental sense, however, all Americans were the targets of the terrorists' crimes.

We do not yet know to a moral certainty who committed mass murder on so many Americans. What we do know is that the victims of their crimes were Americans of every religion, race and socio-economic background.

As a people, we are shocked and deeply concerned. These were hate crimes, coldly calculated to injure an entire people.

The terrorists' have misread America's character and resolve. That error will be their ultimate undoing.

We are angry, determined and unified — not divided. Americans of every color and creed will support President Bush in all reasonable actions to protect the country, even as we continue to question the wisdom of many of his domestic policies.

That ability to support what is right while opposing that which is wrong is the greatest legacy of our freedom.

The Bush Administration will receive substantial support for reasonable measures that strengthen the security system that protects us. There also will be nearly unanimous support for the most intense, massive and unrelenting investigation in history to bring those responsible for these crimes to justice.

Achieving these objectives will be difficult and expensive, but I am confident that they are within our power to achieve. Our greatest challenge will be to implement an enhanced anti-terrorism policy that both strengthens the security of the American

people and preserves our deep respect for human life.

There will be those who will argue that our safety justifies extreme security measures. An effective anti-terrorism policy, however, must respect human rights and fundamental liberties. Otherwise, the terrorists will have won.

If the terrorists provoke this country into a blind, excessively-violent overreaction, the terrorists will have achieved an important goal. Forty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., taught Americans that freedom requires courage. Violence, even in response to injustice, necessarily leads to more violence.

When President Bush addressed the nation on Tuesday night, he declared that we will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these terrible crimes and those who harbor them. I agree – but only up to a point.

A free, democratic society that respects human life and human rights cannot afford unrestrained acts of vengeance.

In good conscience, we cannot engage in acts of mass retaliation against millions of innocent civilians simply because their dictatorial masters may have become accessories to mass murder. Our goal of defeating terrorism will fail if America allows itself to be provoked into becoming a terrorist state.

To become more secure, we must work together toward a world that is more just.

In our hour of anger and pain, Dr. King would counsel America that the peace and security that we seek requires more than the absence of violent conflict. America must lead the world toward a new international reality founded upon the presence of justice.

Visit the 7th District Internet site for further information about the terrorist attacks:
<http://www.house.gov/cummings>

CONTACT NUMBERS FOR VICTIMS OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS, THEIR FAMILIES AND VOLUNTEERS

FEMA

The FEMA teleregistration line is available for victims to register for FEMA assistance in declared areas in the State of New York (Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens and Richmond Counties and the boroughs of Brooklyn and Manhattan) -- (800) 462-9029

AMERICAN RED CROSS

Victim Information -- Call Your Local Red Cross Chapter; Spanish Information Line -- (800) 257-7575; Blood Donations -- (800) 448-3543; Financial Contributions -- (800) HELP-NOW; Volunteer Medical Services -- (800) 801-8092; General Services -- (518) 431-7600; Bulk Donations -- (800) 7-IN-KIND; Victim Information -- Call Your Local Red Cross Chapter.

SALVATION ARMY

Contributions -- (800) SAL-Army.

MILITARY PERSONNEL & FAMILIES

Navy / Marine Corps -- (877) 663-6772; Air Force -- (800) 253-9276; Army -- (800) 984-8523.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Family Assistance Center / Victims Hotline -- (800) 331-0075; Anyone with information about the terrorist attacks should call -- (800) 483-5137; Office of Victims of Crime (details about victims and survivors) -- (800) 331-0075.

NY CITY FIREFIGHTERS

Status Information Line -- (718) 999-2541.

AIRLINES

American Airlines -- (800) 245-0999
United Airlines -- (800) 932-8555.

CONGRESSMAN CUMMINGS CONTINUES EFFORT TO AWARD NORMANDY INVASION VETERANS' MEDALS

On January 29, 2001, Congressman Cummings awarded French Jubilee Liberty Medals to 11 World War II veterans in a ceremony held at the Charlestown Retirement Community Chapel. The Regional Council of Normandy commissioned the Jubilee of Liberty Medals to pay tribute to the thousands of men and women who fought in Normandy to restore freedom to a war-torn continent. Jubilee of Liberty Medals were originally presented to veterans who returned to Normandy for the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, June 6, 1994.

The Medal officially represents the Province of Normandy. The Governor of Normandy has authorized that the Jubilee of Liberty Medal be presented to any veteran who was unable to attend the 50th Anniversary celebrations in France, but who participated in the invasions between June 6, 1944 and August 31, 1944.

Congressman Cummings will host a final medal ceremony in November, 2001, for veterans who participated in the Normandy invasions.

Eligible veterans who have not received a Jubilee of Liberty Medal should contact Bill Cole, at (410) 719-8777, no later than October 15, 2001. The only required documentation is a copy of the veteran's official honorable military discharge showing participation in the Normandy campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Small Business Symposium: "Solutions for Financing and Procurement:" Tuesday, October 30, 2001, 7:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m., Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Congressman Cummings' free "How to Pay for College" Seminar: Monday, November 5, 2001, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., The Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and Hygiene, 615 N. Wolfe Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.